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UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS

Episode #52

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11:30 to 12:30 P.M. C.S.T.

FEBRUARY 16, 1933

THURSDAY

ORCHESTRA:            (RANGER SONG)

ANNOUNCER:            "UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS"---

ORCHESTRA:            QUARTET

ANNOUNCER:            When a crop is mature, it should be harvested. Otherwise it will deteriorate. The timber crop is no exception, and on the national forests, where Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers are managing the timberlands for continuous production, mature timber is cut, whenever possible, on lands for which timber growing is the highest use. The cutting is done under the Rangers' supervision, according to carefully prepared plans which make certain that the land will continue to grow more timber. Thus Ranger Jim Robbins, and his assistant, Jerry Quick, have been arranging for the cutting of selected trees over an area known as Beerkeg Gulch in the Pine Cone Ranger District. Last week, however, we found that they were having trouble in getting the cutting started. First the owner of an adjoining estate protested, and then they learned that that slick old character, Mike Bundy, who has caused them trouble before, was claiming that the Beerkeg area was "his ground." We go on with the story -- Jim and Jerry are returning to the Ranger Station --

(SOUND OF AUTO - CONTINUES THROUGH FOLLOWING)

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
CHICAGO, ILL.  
JANUARY 10, 1911

Dear Sir,  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst. in relation to the matter of the purchase of the book "The Principles of Economics" by J. B. Clark, and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, however, unable to give you any definite answer at this time, as the matter is still under consideration. I am, nevertheless, sure that the authorities will take prompt action upon the matter, and I am sure that you will be satisfied with the result. I am, very respectfully,  
Yours truly,  
The University of Chicago

JERRY: Jim, how do you suppose this guy Bundy gets that way? Where do you suppose he gets the idea that Beerkeg is his ground?

JIM: That's what we'll have to find out, Jerry. We'll have to find out what Mike Bundy's got up his sleeve, first of all.

JERRY: Yeah. -- Here we are back at the station.

JIM: Yep. (AUTO STOPS)

JERRY: (Half whisper) Gosh all hemlock! Look who's calling on us! sitting on the front step there!

JIM: It's old Bundy himself, eh? (chuckles) I s'pect we're going to find out quicker than we thought. -- (raising voice) Hi there, Bundy.

BUNDY: (off) Hi.

JIM: Waitin' to see us?

BUNDY: (up) Yeah. I heard the govment's figgerin' on cuttin' that timber up Beerkeg gulch.

JIM: Yep, you're right, Bundy. The stumpage has been sold and the cutting starts tomorrow.

BUNDY: Yeah? Well I jest come up here to notify yuh that they aint goin' to be no cuttin' there till I say so. That's my ground an' I don't want no timber cut.

JIM: Your ground, eh, Bundy? What sort of a title have you? My maps show that it's government land.

BUNDY: I got mining claims on there, an' yuh can't cut timber off mining claims. Yuh know that, I reckon.

JIM: Uh huh.

BUNDY: You've knowed it for a long time, too. I'm just remindin' yuh about it now.

JIM: I see. Just where in Beerkeg are those claims you're talking about, Bundy?





BUNDY: Up there where the old Smith cabin is. Lode claim runs up the hill to the south and Smith cabin's on the millsite that lays down in that little meadow.

JIM: Jerry, do you recollect seeing any location notices or prospect holes up in there?

JERRY: No. -- I remember mapping in an old cabin when we cruised out that timber though. I've got a rough draft of the map right here in my pocket. (RATTLE OF PAPER) See? Here's the cabin Mr. Bundy must be talking about. On the little flat there, just on the edge of this grassy park.

BUNDY: That's it, all right.

JIM: Yep. That's where I figured Perkins would put his logging camp.

BUNDY: Well, he wont neither. He aint gonna cut that timber -- see? -- and what's more, he can't get any timber outa there without crossin' them claims.

JIM: I guess that's true.

BUNDY: I reckon that'll stop any timber cuttin' on Beerkeg, huh?

(LAUGHS HARSHLY) Good evenin' to yuh, Robbins. (GOES OFF LAUGHING IN AHA-YOU-CANNOT-PAY-THE-MORTGAGE MANNER)

JERRY: What's all this about, Jim? Can Bundy stop us from cutting?

JIM: We'll see, Jerry. We'll see. -- Let's go in the office and investigate.

JERRY: All right.

(SOUND OF OPENING AND CLOSING DOOR)

JIM: (Calls) Oh, Bess.

BESS: (coming up) Back again already, Jim?

JIM: Yep.

BESS: Oh, Jim -- that horrid Mike Bundy was here a few minutes ago.

JIM: I know, Bess. We saw him when we came in.





BESS: What did he want?

JIM: He says he's got some mining claims up in Beerkeg.

BESS: Oh Jim, that Bundy person is always causing trouble.

JIM: Well, we'll see, Bess. We're going to look into it now.

BESS: Oh, I do hope it won't hold up Mr. Perkins - and all the men  
- they need the work so badly.

JIM: We'll see, Bess.

BESS: (GOING OFF) Well, I'll go ahead and start dinner.

JIM: all right -- Well now -- Let's see -- get that black binder  
over there on top of the map case, Jerry, while I load up my pipe.

JERRY: Okay -- Say, Jim, we checked our records for patented mining  
claims when I was finishing up the map of the Beerkeg unit  
last fall.

JIM: It aint patented claims I'm thinkin' about, Jerry. I know  
there aren't any patented claims in Beerkeg. -- Let's see  
here. -- (RATTLE OF MAP) -- See here, Jerry -- here are the  
two old claims I think Bundy is talking about. See? Storm  
King Lode Number One, and Storm King Mill Site. -- They were  
located in 1905 by old Bob Taylor.

JERRY: I guess that stops us then, Jim. Huh?

JIM: Well, let's don't be too sure about that, Jerry. Bob Taylor's  
been dead for ten years.

JERRY: But claims that old --

JIM: Bob Taylor allowed those claims to lapse long before he died,  
Jerry. Never did his assessment work.

JERRY: I don't understand.

JIM: Well, it's like this. The mining laws require that before a  
claim is valid a discovery shall be made.

JERRY: Oh.



JIM: You see, 'bout 1905 there was a lot of mineral excitement all through this country. Folks who didn't know gold from beeswax were runnin' wild all over these hills. One thing that made a lot of these so-called gold hunters lay awake nights thinkin' they had made themselves rich was "fool's gold" --

JERRY: Fool's gold?

JIM: Yeah. Just plain pyrite. The creeks and hills around here are plum full of this pyrite.

JERRY: I've heard of fool's gold. What's it like?

JIM: Well, it usually occurs as small yellow crystals in the rock -- and in sunlight it glitters and looks like gold.

JERRY: "All that glitters is not gold."

JIM: Yep. It fooled many a tenderfoot in the early days.

JERRY: Well, is that all there is to Bundy's protest, then?

JIM: Not exactly, Jerry. I was startin' out to tell you about Old Bob Taylor's claims. He staked the Storm King Lode and Mill Site, and had 'em surveyed. Never did any development work.

JERRY: Didn't he make a discovery?

JIM: No. But nobody cared in those days, and no examination of the claim was made or any thought given to the validity of the claim by the government until the claimant applied for the patent. There wasn't much need then, because only mineral was wanted. But nowadays some folks want to get title to a good piece of ground under the guise of mining, to use it for something else. -- I don't think Bundy's interested in mining.

JERRY: Neither do I. -- But then Taylor gave up the claim when he found out all he had was fool's gold?





JIM: Yes. He didn't do any assessment work. You see, the law requires that a hundred dollars ~~worth~~ of work has to be done on each claim annually, and the claimant has to file a sworn statement with the county where the claim's located. Lots of old claims were allowed to go by default.

JERRY: That ought to settle Bundy's case then.

JIM: Nope. Bundy could go up and relocate these old Taylor claims, or locate and stake out new claims in Beerkeg. No law against it.

JERRY: But there's nothing but fool's gold up there. Bundy ought to know --

JIM: Bundy knows there's no gold in Beerkeg.-- And if he's relocated the Storm King claim, or located new claims, he's got something besides mining in his head.

JERRY: But how can he get away with that?

JIM: Well, I'm not saying just now.

(KNOCK ON DOOR)

JERRY: Someone's at the door, Jim.

JIM: Uh huh. (RAISING VOICE) Come in.

(SOUND OF DOOR OPENING)

PERKINS: (COMING IN, HUFFY) Hey, look a here, Jim --

JIM: Howdy, Perkins.

JERRY: (WITH HIM) Hello, Mr. Perkins.

PERKINS: (WROUGHT UP) Look here, Jim -- My company bought that timber didn't it?

JIM: Yep. Your bid was accepted.

PERKINS: Well, are we going to get to cut it?

JIM: Maybe, Al. I can't say, yet.





PERKINS: Yeah, but lissen. This Mike Bundy - he jumps me just a minute ago - and says we gotta pay him a thousand dollars, Jim -- a thousand bucks cash money - for permission to take timber across his ground, - an' besides -

JIM: Kinda holdin' you up, eh?

PERKINS: I'll say he is! An' he says if we don't fork over, he's going to be up there with that tun of his an' see that we don't cut any timber on his claims or take any timber out across his ground - an' he says he's got the law on his side -

JIM: (CHUCKLING) That's kind of an unusual experience for Mike Bundy, eh?

PERKINS: But look a here. Don't we get some protection from the government on this sale?

JIM: You will - if the sale's permissible, Al. Bundy's got some mining claims in there, and we've got to find out first of all if he's within his rights.

PERKINS: Yeah, but look - I've got my crew all hired and the equipment all ready and everything - all ready to start - and the company'll be losing money every day we're held up -

JIM: I know, Al.

PERKINS: An' besides, we can't afford to take any of that timber if we can't cut over the whole area.

JIM: Yeah, I know, Al. We'll get this matter settled as soon as we can.

PERKINS: (EXASPERATED) Yeah, but can't you see Jim -- I can't wait on any such promises. I'm all set to begin cuttin' in the morning.

JIM: We'll find out pretty quick if Bundy's within his rights, Al.

PERKINS: Well, we gotta find out -- I can't afford --

(PERKINS VOICE FADES OFF AND DOOR SLAMS)



JERRY: Gosh, Perkins is all worked up -- and you can't blame him either.

JIM: Get your hat, Jerry. I reckon you'd better come along.

JERRY: Where you going, Jim?

JIM: I'm going to get hold of Mike Bundy again and take him up to Beerkeg. We'll have time before it gets dark.

JERRY: All right. I bet we can find him hanging 'round the store.

JIM: Yep.

BESS: (COMING IN) Oh Jim --

JIM: 'lo, Bess.

BESS: Jim, are you going out again?

JIM: Yep. We have to go up to Beerkeg again, Bess.

BESS: Oh, but Jim! Dinner will be half spoiled.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, Jerry and I will spoil the other half in record time when we get back. Sorry, Bess, but we really have to go. I don't want to delay Perkins and his crew if there's any way out of it.

BESS: I know, Jim --

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(SOUND OF AUTO, CONTINUES THROUGH FOLLOWING)

JERRY: Gosh, it's getting chilly again, Jim.

JIM: Yep.

JERRY: The wind goes right through you, riding in this open truck.

(SUDDEN SQUEAK OF BRAKES JAMMED ON)

JERRY: Hey! What's the big idea -- shoving on the brakes so sudden? Nearly threw me through the windshield.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Didn't you see that rabbit in the track?

JERRY: No.

(SOUND OF MOTOR UP AGAIN, CONTINUING THROUGH THE FOLLOWING)







JIM: They're usually out about this time of evening. I never could get careless 'bout runnin' down the little critters.

JERRY: I've got to hand it to you, Jim, for being considerate to man and beast.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Think I'm chicken-hearted, eh, Jerry?

JERRY: (LAUGHS) Well, you're the last man on earth I'd want to go up against when you knew you were right on a deal.

JIM: Think so, Jerry? -- Well, here we are at the store. --

JERRY: Yep, there's Mike Bundy out in front, all right.

(MOTOR STOPS)

JIM: Uh huh. Looks like he's telling those cronies of his big things. Getting a hearing all right, this time. -- (CALLS)  
Hey, Bundy.

BUNDY: (OFF) Huh? Watcha want?

JIM: Come over here, will you?

BUNDY: (COMING UP) Sure. -- Say, Robbins - I fergot to tell yuh while ago that I'm goin' up tomorrow to do some work on my claims. Want to cut some trees fer a cabin - an' get some cribbin' to go in a tunnel. I reckon you gotta mark the timber.

JIM: Uh huh. How about going up there with us right now?

BUNDY: Huh? -- Now? -- What fer?

JIM: So's you can show us those claims.

BUNDY: Huh? -- Well, -- I reckon I can.

JIM: All right. Climb in, Bundy.

(SOUND OF MOTOR UP? AND FADEOUT)

(MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(FADEIN WITH SOUND OF MOTOR)

JIM: Here we are, Bundy. (MOTOR STOPS) We'll walk in from here.

BUNDY: Awright. (SLAM DOOR GETTING OUT OF TRUCK)



JIM: Nice timber in here, huh, Bundy?

BUNDY: Yeah.

JIM: What you got on these claims, Bundy? Relocate the old Storm King?

BUNDY: (UNCERTAINLY) Huh? - Uh -- n-no -- My claims I calls the Klondike an' the Bundy Mill Site.

JIM: Good Names.

BUNDY: Named the Klondike after the old Klondike Number One. Yuh know how big that paid. I reckon they're still minin' on it.

JIM: Uh huh. If there's anything in a name, you ought to have a winner.

BUNDY: Yeah. -- (WHEELING TONE) Say, Robbins, I'm sorta sorry I had tuh stop Perkins from gettin' his timber.

JIM: Uh huh. 'Tis too bad. Those boys down town needed jobs pretty bad. It's goin' to be a hard winter on 'em if they don't get work.

BUNDY: Maybe I'll put 'em to work developin' the Klondike.

JIM: How many of 'em, Bundy?

BUNDY: (AVOIDING ANSWERING) Well - uh -- look at this rock, Robbins. That's float from the Klondike, washed down here -- See? -- Take a look at 'er.

JIM: Uh huh. It's a heavy all right. What's it got, Bundy?

BUNDY: That's high grade. See them yellow specks?

JIM: Yep.

JERRY: (EAGERLY) Let me see it, Jim!

JIM: All right.

JERRY: Why that's -- looks like --

JIM: Show us where your claims are, now, Bundy.





BUNDY: Well - uh - there's the northwest corner of the Mill Site up there somewheres around that big tree.

JIM: Uh Huh. Where's your corner post?

BUNDY: Well - uh - I aint got 'em staked out -- exactly -- yet.

JIM: Uh huh. Where you going to put the cabin, Bundy?

BUNDY: There - near the old Smith Cabin. Goin' to use the old cabin fer a barn.

JIM: I see. -- By the way, where's your discovery hole, Bundy?

BUNDY: That's up there on the hill, on the Klondike.

JERRY: Let's go up.

JIM: Yes, I want to see it, Bundy.

BUNDY: Well -- it's gettin' kinda late. --

JIM: Won't take long, Bundy. Com on --

BUNDY: Pretty steep goin' --

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Yep. Looks like Jerry's goin' to run right away from us old codgers. --

JERRY: (SLIGHTLY OFF) Hey -- what's the board over there on that tree?

BUNDY: That's my discovery notice. The hole's right under it.

JIM: Not much of a hole Bundy -- Climb up and read the notice, Jerry, -- will you?

JERRY: Sure. -- It says -- (READING) "February 1, 1933 - "

JIM: What's the date again, Jerry?

JERRY: February first.

JIM: Kinda got a little ahead of yourself, didn't you, Bundy? When was it they let you out of jail?

BUNDY: Huh? -- I - I disremember now -- exactly --

JIM: Seems to me you were still in the pen on February first.

BUNDY: Huh?

JIM: What's the rest of it say, Jerry?





JERRY: It says - (READS) "February 1, 1933. Notice. I, [redacted] signed, claim by right of discovery this lode, extending 750 feet north, 750 feet south, 150 feet east and 150 feet west from this, the point of discovery. Signed, Michael Bundy. Witnesses, Bill Burnham and Pete Seary."

JIM: Uh huh. Let's see what you've got in this discovery hole, Bundy.

BUNDY: I showed yuh that rock, didn't I?

JIM: Get that rock out of this hole?

BUNDY: YEAH.

JIM: Where? I don't see any rock like that here. Looks to me like this lode you're claiming is just plain country rock, Bundy.

BUNDY: Huh? Say, what the -- what -- what do you know about mineral, Anyway, Robbins?

JIM: Just enough to know that this high-grade you showed me didn't come from this discovery hole.

BUNDY: Huh? Yuh can't prove it.

JERRY: Jim, we cruised this timber last fall, and started advertising it in January.

BUNDY: (ANGRILY) What the - what's that got to do with my claims, young feller?

JIM: Take it easy, Bundy. The lad's using his head.

BUNDY: Well, I aint come up here to lissen to that young smart aleck gimme gimme no advice 'bout my claims.

JIM: Never mind that, Bundy. You haven't got a valid claim.

BUNDY: Huh? W-why aint I got a valid claim?

JIM: Well, Bundy, in the first place, there's the absence of corner posts marking the boundaries of the claims; then there's the absence of a discovery pit ten feet deep - like the law requires; and then your location notice is pre-dated, and anyway its subsequent to the date of the timber sale.



BUNDY: Huh? -- Look here now --!

JIM: I'm instructing Perkins to start his logging operations in here tomorrow morning.

BUNDY: (SPUTTERING) Hey -- look here now! Nobody's gonna cut in here without I say so! I'll shoot the first guy that -- look here! Nobody's gonna bluff me outa my rights!

JIM: You'll have your rights, Bundy, same as anybody else -- but you haven't got a valid mining claim here. -- We might as well be startin' home, Bundy.

(FADEOUT)

ANNOUNCERL Well - Bundy didn't get away with it. -- We continue with the story of Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers next Thursday at this same hour. This program is brought to you by the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

